

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANA 01922 240553Z
ACTION NEA-10

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UNCLAS SANA 1922

FOR NEA/ARP FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PDIP, YE
SUBJECT: HONORARY DOCTOR'S DEGREE FOR YEMENI PRIME MINISTER

1. PLEASE PASS TO ROLAND C. RAUTENSTRAUS, PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO IN BOULDER, COLORADO, FOLLOWING SUGGESTED TEXT FOR CITATION FOR PRIME MINISTER ABDAL AZIZ ABDAL GHANI HONORARY DEGREE. IN THIS CONNECTION, PRIME MINISTER INFORMED ME TODAY THAT HE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND CEREMONY ON MAY 25 SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO ANY CHANGES IN PLANS BEYOND HIS CONTROL. HIS HAT SIZE IS 24 INCHES, SHOULDER TO CUFF LENGTH 56 INCHES, COAT SIZE, 42. PICTURE WILL BE SENT SOONEST BY MAIL.

2. TEXT OF CITATION IS AS FOLLOWS:
"ABDAL AZIZ ABDAL GHANI, ABLE AND EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATOR AND PRIME MINISTER OF THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC, WAS BORN ON JULY 4, 1939, IN HAIFAN IN THE HUJJARIYYA DISTRICT OF YEMEN, A RUGGED AND BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN AREA, WHOSE SONS ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR INDUSTRY AND ACUMEN. BEGINNING HIS EDUCATION IN THE TRADITIONAL KORANIC SCHOOL IN HIS HOME VILLAGE, HE THEN WENT ON TO ADEN COLLEGE IN ADEN WHERE HE COMPLETED HIS SECONDARY STUDIES IN 1957.

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"IN THE SAME YEAR, HE WAS AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND ATTENDED COLORADO COLLEGE, FROM WHICH HE WAS GRADUATED IN 1962 WITH A B.A. IN ECONOMICS. FOLLOWING HIS UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION, HE THEN PROCEEDED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO WHERE HE RECEIVED HIS M.A. IN ECONOMICS IN 1967.

"AFTER TEACHING AT THE BILQIS COLLEGE IN ADEN FROM 1964 TO 1967, HE RETURNED TO YEMEN PSS1967, A LAND RACKED BY DRAUGHT AND CIVIL WAR, WHERE HE IMMEDIATELY ENTERED GOVERNMENT SERVICE AS MINISTER OF HEALTH. IN 1968 HE WAS APPOINTED MINISTER OF ECONOMY, A POST HE HELD UNTIL 1969, WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING BOARD WHICH WAS THEN IN ITS EARLY STAGES OF ORGANIZATION. IN 1970, HE AGAIN BECAME MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND THEN FOR A SHORT PERIOD IN 1971 HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE YEMEN PETROLEUM CO. IN SEPTEMBER 1971, HE WAS NAMED FIRST GOVERNOR OF THE NEWLY-APPOINTED CENTRAL BANK OF YEMEN WHICH, UNDER HIS COMPETENT AND ABLE LEADERSHIP, QUICKLY BEGAN TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FISCAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL AFFAIRS OF YEMEN. IN JANUARY 1975, HE WAS APPOINTED PRIME MINISTER OF YEMEN, A POST WHICH HE HAS HELD SINCE THAT TIME, MAKING HIS GOVERNMENT THE LONGEST-LIVED CABINET IN YEMEN'S MODERN HISTORY. UNDER HIS IMAGINATIVE AND WISE GUIDANCE, THE CABINET HAS DEVELOPED INTO A FINELY-TUNED WORKING INSTITUTION WHICH IN TURN HAS ENABLED YEMEN TO PREPARE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY A FIVE-YEAR PLAN AS A BASIS ON WHICH TO DEVELOP YEMEN'S INFRASTRUCTURE, NOT ONLY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, BUT FOR DECADES TO COME. THIS PLAN ENVISAGES AN EXPENDITURE OF \$3.6 BILLION WHICH WILL BE ALLOCATED TO THE BUILDING OF ROADS, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, POWER PLANTS AND ALL TYPES OF GOVERNMENT FACILITIES. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THE PLAN CALLS FOR THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE MEN AND WOMEN TO ADMINISTER THESE PROJECTS.

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"ABDAL AZIZ ABDAL GHANI IS A MAN WITH VISION, WHOM DESTINY PLACED AT THE HEAD OF YEMEN'S CABINET AT A MOST PROPITIOUS TIME. HIS EFFORTS AND THOSE OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE CABINET CAN BE LIKENED TO THE WORK OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF OUR NATION IN ESTABLISHING SOUND AND RESPONSIVE INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES FOR THE FLEDGLING YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC, WHICH HAS ONLY RECENTLY EMERGED FROM MEDIEVAL ISOLATION. AT THE SAME TIME, INSPIRED BY THE LIVING TRADITIONS OF HIS NATIVE LAND AS WELL AS BY HIS BROADENING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE UNITED STATES, HE EMBODIES THAT QUEST FOR SYNTHESIS BETWEEN THE BEST OF THE PAST AND THE BEST OF THE PRESENT WHICH IS SO ESSENTIAL IF CONSTRUCTIVE, MODERATE AND LASTING REFORM IS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE WORLD'S DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE UNITES STATES, AND IN PARTICULAR THE STATE OF COLORADO, CAN TAKE PRIDE IN AFFORDING ABDAL AZIZ ABDAL GHANI THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE THE SKILLS AND ATTITUDES SO NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE HIS GOALS.

"WHILE GIVING RECOGNITION TODAY TO ABDAL AZIZ ABDAL GHANI, WE, THEREFORE, THROUGH HIM ALSO GIVE RECOGNITION TO HIS DEDICATED COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE YEMEN ARAB

REPUBLIC AS WELL AS TO THE BRAVE YEMENI PEOPLE WHO, DESPITE
MANY HARDSHIPS AND DIFFICULTIES, ARE DEMONSTRATING THAT THEY
ARE WORTHY DESCENDENTS OF THE HIGH CIVILIZATION WHICH ONCE
FLOURISHED IN THE LAND KNOWN AS SHEBA AND WHICH MADE THE
ANCIENTS RIGHTLY PRAISE IT AS ARABIA FELIX. IT IS ESPECIALLY
FITTING, THEREFORE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF
COLORADO HONOR ABDAL AZIZ ABDAL GHANI, ONE OF ITS SONS, FOR
HIS SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS WELL AS FOR THE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PEOPLE OF YEMEN AS A WHOLE. I HAVE
THE HONOR, THEREFORE, TO PRESENT ABDAL AZIZ ABDAL GHANI FOR
THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS, HONORIS CAUSA."

SCOTES

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